

Application No. 09/644,498

REMARKS

Claims 65-89 are pending. By this Amendment, 65 and 77 are amended to expedite prosecution.

With regards to claim 65, step (a) was amended to recite "consisting essentially of", a phrase that is partially open ended, which covers combinations with additional elements but excludes additional unspecified ingredients that would affect the basic and novel characteristics of the claimed method.

It is noted that the Amendment of August 25, 2003 that the claims were amended, where needed, so that the claimed process did not require the exclusive presence of only fully differentiated astrocytes. Accordingly, the term "astrocytes" has not been limited by representations made by the undersigned, either before or after the August 25, 2003 amendment. Further, the Applicant is not bound to a particular theory of operation of the claimed invention.

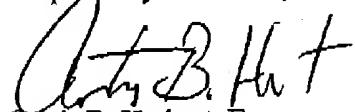
The Examiner granted the undersigned the courtesy of a telephonic interview to discuss independent claim 65 with respect to the heparin in the medium and serum free medium. It was tentatively agreed that a limitation to heparin was not needed, and that the claims could be directed to specify medium essentially free of serum.

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned if the Examiner believes it would be useful to advance prosecution.

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Respectfully submitted,



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